

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. On the motion to bracket, Senator Scofield, followed by Senators Higgins and Hall.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to encourage you to support the bracket motion and I would like to offer you what wisdom I have gained from trying to do a counselor licensure bill which Senator Wesely has alluded to. This is a process that is difficult to attain. You start out with very good intentions. You want to protect the public. You want to provide them with good information so they know who they are dealing with. We drafted a bill and passed it which has proven to be broad enough to raise all kinds of questions and all kinds of difficulties. I am confident that we have come up with language that will be introduced this session in a new bill to be heard this Friday that's going to take care of this. And, essentially, we're going to propose a certification mechanism that provides enough information out there for a consumer to know how qualified that person is they are dealing with and yet it does not create a bureaucratic structure that is cumbersome and expensive and doesn't end up regulating people that you wanted to regulate anyway, which is what reality really is. And so I think I'm...I would be happy to share the model that we are developing on the counselor bill with Senator Hall. I think it would apply to this situation as well and I think we can come up with a good piece of legislation here that meets his objectives and I hope Senator Hall will accept the notion of a bracket and I will be happy to help on that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues, I believe that Senator Hall has done a great deal of work on this bill and I believe that he is sincere in wanting to license the nutritionists or certify them. And I think this motion to bracket is a real good solution for the problem we have today. These dietitians and the nutritionists don't seem to be able to agree. Now, by bracketing the bill, somebody is going to have to give a little and that's fine, let it be between the dietitians and the nutritionists. But today, at this moment, on Senator Morehead's motion which is to bracket, it's not to indefinitely postpone, like it says on the wall up there, it's to bracket it, which means she is not trying to kill the bill. I don't think Wesely is either. But we should give ample time now since it's been aired on both sides. It shows good faith.